

Retirement Barn (Christopher Vandergrift Barn)
U.S. Route 13, .7 miles south of Route 2
Biddles Corner Vicinity
New Castle County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-219

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PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

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| STATE Delaware | COUNTY New Castle County | TOWN OR VICINITY Biddles Corner Vicinity |
| HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Retirement Barn (Beers' atlas of 1868) | | HABS NO. DE-219 |
| SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Christopher Vandergrift Barn (New Castle County probate records) | | |
| COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) U.S. Route 13, .7 miles south of Route 2 | | |
| DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1790-1810 (construction) | | ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) |
| SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The Retirement Barn is the last known surviving example in southern New Castle County of a tri-partite (three bay) traditional English style barn. Common in the 18th century this barn type was replaced with other modern agricultural building types in the mid 1800s. | | |
| STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) | | |
| MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Four bent, braced frame. Central bents define stalls (east) and mows (west). Vertical board siding; common rafter roof. | | |
| SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) See measured drawings. | | |
| EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Original vertical board siding remains under mid 20th-century shed (deleted from drawings) and is attached with hand headed cut nails. | | |
| INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Framing elements include heavy principal posts with "lipped" mortices to carry lower tie beams. The tie beams increase in thickness from their joints with the posts to their mid points. See sections in measured drawings. | | |
| MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Mid 20th century: original floor removed and paved with concrete; cattle shed added for mechanical feeding and milking. These changes are deleted from the drawings, but they are visible in the photographs. | | |
| PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Vacant, deteriorating. | | |
| OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE | | |
| SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register of Historic Places 1985; D.G. Beers, <u>Atlas of the State of Delaware</u> , 1868. Cultural Resource Survey, DE. Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. | | |
| COMPILER, AFFILIATION Bernard L. Herman, Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering | | DATE 3-5-85 |